



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proposed Education Code Referendum Enters Circulation

Referendum to Overturn Amendments to Education Code.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Debra Bowen announced today that the proponent of a proposed referendum measure may begin collecting signatures.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on referendum petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials, and the referendum may be circulated for signatures. The Attorney General's official title and summary for this measure is as follows:

REFERENDUM TO OVERTURN AMENDMENTS TO EDUCATION CODE. If this petition is signed by the required number of registered voters and timely filed with the Secretary of State, it stops certain amendments (of the Education Code) from taking effect, unless a majority of voters at the next statewide election vote in their favor. The challenged amendments would, in part, prohibit any teaching or school activity that “promotes a discriminatory bias” against persons possessing specified protected characteristics. These protected characteristics include sexual orientation, gender identity or behavior, and association with persons who have any protected characteristic. (07-0071.)

To qualify a referendum for the ballot, the proponent must submit petition signatures of 433,971 registered voters to county election officials within 90 days from the date the bill is enacted. Senate Bill 777 (Kuehl), Chapter 569, Statutes of 2007, was enacted on October 12, 2007. The proponent has until January 10, 2008, to submit petition signatures.

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1285 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 07-0071.

The proponent of the referendum is Karen England. The proponent can be reached at 660 J Street, Suite 250, Sacramento, CA 95814. No phone number was provided.

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